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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0466  
INFO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

UNCLAS KUWAIT 003757

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH, PARIS FOR O'FRIEL  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [KISL](#) [KU](#)  
SUBJECT: KUWAITIS DENOUNCE BIN LADEN

[1](#)1. KUWAITI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OPINION LEADERS  
DENOUNCED THE BIN LADEN TAPE RELEASED BY THE PENTAGON  
DECEMBER 13.

[1](#)2. ASKED HIS VIEW OF THE TAPE, KUWAIT'S ACTING PRIME  
MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SABAH SAID: "EVERYONE  
WHO HEARS SUCH THINGS WILL DEFINITELY BE SHOCKED WHEN HE  
HEARS THE ONE WHO MURDERS PEOPLE LAUGHING AND HAPPY.  
THEREFORE, WE REJECT SUCH THINGS." SHAYKH SABAH MADE THIS  
STATEMENT TO LOCAL REPORTERS UPON HIS RETURN FROM LONDON  
DECEMBER 14.

[1](#)3. KUWAIT'S ARABIC DAILY "AL-ANBA" QUOTED THE VIEWS OF AN  
UNNAMED OFFICIAL SOURCE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN AN  
ARTICLE PUBLISHED DECEMBER 15. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER,  
THE OFFICIAL SAID THE TAPE REPRESENTS A DEFINITE CONVICTION  
AGAINST BIN LADEN AND DECISIVE EVIDENCE ABOUT HIS  
INVOLVEMENT AND THAT OF HIS ASSOCIATES IN THE SEPTEMBER 11  
ATTACKS.

[1](#)4. A LIBERAL COLUMNIST, FOUAD AL-HASHEM, PUBLISHED A PIECE  
DECEMBER 15 IN THE KUWAITI ARABIC DAILY "AL-WATAN" ABOUT THE  
BIN LADEN TAPE. AL-HASHEM ARGUED: "NO HUMAN BEING HAS EVER  
SEEN THE DEVIL.... (BUT) THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS SHOWED  
THE WHOLE WORLD WHAT THE REAL DEVIL LOOKED LIKE WHEN HE  
APPEARED ON THE TAPE FOUND BY THE AMERICAN FORCES. WE SAW  
HIM AS HE LAUGHED...AND AS HE EXPLAINED HOW HE HAD EXPECTED  
LESS DESTRUCTION AND FEWER DEATHS FROM THE ATTACK ON THE  
WORLD TRADE CENTER. DO YOU NOW KNOW WHAT THE DEVIL LOOKS  
LIKE?"

JONES